

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated October 28, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Widdershoven et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 5,689,185). The Examiner further rejected claims 1 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Chiku et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 3,304,787). Claims 17-20 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Beichler et al.* (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2005/0017714). The Examiner rejected claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Widdershoven*. Claims 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Beichler* in view of *Chiku*. The Examiner rejected claims 27-31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Beichler* or *Beichler* in view of *Hsu et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,243,660). The Examiner also objected to claims 4, 6, 11, and 17 for several informalities. The Examiner allowed claims 13-16. The Examiner further indicated that claims 6, 7, 12, and 23-25 would be allowable if rewritten as independent claims.

Specification

The Examiner objected to the specification for several informalities. Applicants have amended the specification to comply with the Examiner's requests, and therefore the objection to the specification should be withdrawn.

Claims

Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of allowable claim 6, made allowable claim 12 independent, and included the limitations of allowable claim 23 into claim 17. Applicants have also added new claims 32-36 which include allowable subject matter. Claims 4, 6, 11, and 17 have also been amended to overcome the objections by the Examiner. In view of these amendments, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

After the entry of the above-listed amendments, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request the Examiner to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at 312-913-3334.

Respectfully submitted,

McDONNELL BOEHNEN
HULBERT & BERGHOFF LLP

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By:


Jori R. Schiffman
Registration No. 57,628

McDONNELL BOEHNEN
HULBERT & BERGHOFF LLP
300 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone No. 312-913-0001
Facsimile No. 312-913-0002

McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff LLP
300 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: (312) 913-0001
Facsimile: (312) 913-0002